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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 97
46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY
Ben Lujan

A JOINT MEMORIAL

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE LEGISLATURE REGARDING RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES; REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO DIRECT AN APPROPRIATE INTERIM COMMITTEE TO STUDY RENEWABLE RESOURCES.

WHEREAS, investment in renewable energy resources should be encouraged and supported; and

WHEREAS, electricity generated from renewable resources remains more expensive than electricity generated from traditional resources; and

WHEREAS, the role of government should be to help close the pricing gap; and

WHEREAS, the use of tax credits to encourage investment in and the use of renewable resources is an effective tool for government; and

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1 WHEREAS, in 2001 the legislature passed and the governor
2 signed into law tax incentives for certain types of renewable
3 energy technologies to promote their development; and

4 WHEREAS, the issuance of industrial revenue bonds to
5 finance renewable energy power plants should be encouraged; and

6 WHEREAS, development and proliferation of renewable energy
7 resources is best accomplished through strong governmental
8 encouragement, leadership and incentives; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1999 the legislature rejected governmental
10 mandates for renewable resources, opting instead for funding
11 support for renewable resource projects; and

12 WHEREAS, in 1999 the legislature directed the public
13 regulation commission to examine the advisability and
14 desirability of requiring renewable energy portfolio standards,
15 in the context of electric industry restructuring; and

16 WHEREAS, the use of mandatory renewable energy portfolio
17 standards involves issues of social policy that require express
18 legislative action to authorize their adoption;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
20 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council
21 direct an appropriate joint legislative interim committee to
22 study and evaluate the most appropriate means for government to
23 encourage and support development and use of renewable energy
24 resources, including the advisability and desirability of
25 requiring renewable energy portfolio standards, and report its

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1 findings to the first session of the forty-seventh legislature;
2 and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public regulation
4 commission be urged to suspend its recently adopted mandatory
5 renewable resource portfolio standards rule pending the
6 conclusion of the interim committee's deliberation; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
8 transmitted to the president pro tempore of the senate and the
9 speaker of the house of representatives, the members of the New
10 Mexico legislative council and the members of the public
11 regulation commission.

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